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[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/)

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## **Governor signs Sen. Van Woerkom's water-quality legislation**

**LANSING** – Legislation that expands the money available to municipalities to make water-quality improvements was signed into law today, announced Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, sponsor of one of the bills.

“Michigan residents have rightly made improving the quality of our lakes and streams a top priority,” said Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores. “This gives local governments more access to money for projects that stop raw sewage from flowing into our water.”

Van Woerkom's bill was part of a bipartisan package that expanded the funds available to cities and townships to pay for projects such as sewer-separation.

In 2002, Michigan voters approved the Great Lakes water quality bond proposal that authorizes the state to borrow up to \$1 billion to pay for sewage treatment projects, storm water projects, and other water-quality projects. Because of Van Woerkom's legislation, municipalities would have access to more money through loans and grants.

Van Woerkom's legislation, Senate Bill 790, is now Public Act 257 of 2005.

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**Note:** A photo of the governor and Sen. Van Woerkom is available on the senator's Web site, located at [senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom](http://senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom).